

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application, Of which (i) claims 21-33 are allowed, (ii) claims 11 and 13-16 are rejected, and (iii) claims 1-10, 12 and 17-20 are objected to.

The Office Action (§ 1) objects to Figure 2, specifying that the figure should include the legend "Prior Art". Applicants have amended Figure 2, as provided above, to include the legend "Prior Art."

The Office Action (§ 2) objects to claims 1-10 because of an informality, regarding which the Examiner suggests replacing the phrase "data compression and decompression" with "data compression and decompression mode." In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to modify the objected to phrase to read "said data compression and decompression" to tie the phrase to the antecedent functionality of "compressing and decompressing data" recited in the preamble. Applicant respectfully submits that the objected to phrase (which forms a part of the phrase "wherein the value of an escape character that is used to indicate the beginning of a command when in transparent mode is not modified during data compression and decompression") refers to the data compression and decompression recited in the preamble, and thus should be referred to as "said data compression and decompression (instead of "data compression and decompression mode" as suggested by the Examiner).

Claims 11 and 13-16 stand rejected (§ 4) under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by CCITT V.42 bis "Data Communication Over the Telephone Network." Applicant has hereby canceled the rejected claims 11 and 13-16.

The Office Action (§ 5) specifies that Claims 1-10 are allowable over the prior art (if the informality objection is overcome). Applicant, as specified above, has amended claims 1-10 to overcome the informality objection, and thus submits that claims 1-10 are allowable.

The Office Action (§ 6) specifies that claims 12 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has hereby amended claims 12 and 17-20 accordingly.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Craig Plastrik, at 301-601-7252, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the sheet for Figure 2 with the enclosed replacement sheet for Figure 2, on which the legend "Prior Art" has been added in accordance with the Examiner's objection.